

December 8, 1958

Dear Jim:

In the absence of the Secretary, I am writing on his behalf to seek your counsel on the situation which the Soviets have created about Berlin. If his temporary illness together with the pressure of commitments and the preparation for the coming meeting of the NATO Foreign Ministers had not excluded it, he most certainly would have asked you to come to Washington in the next few days to share with him your experience and judgment in the development of our policy in this delicate and difficult situation.

The Secretary regrets that it will be impossible to sit down with you to exchange views and wonders if you would be good enough to get to him before his departure for Paris on December 12 any thoughts you have, in writing, on the recent developments concerning Berlin and how we should proceed to deal with them in the best interests of the United States. He will be very grateful for your valuable advice, I know.

Sincerely yours,

Livingston T. Merchant
Assistant Secretary

The Honorable
James B. Conant,
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